

YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of January 25, 2016

No. 235

Central Rappahannock Regional Library

Storytime Underground - Virginia Local Chapter

Enid, I have some exciting news for Youth Services library staff in Virginia, which I thought I might share in case you'd like to spread the word!

The wonderful Storytime Underground (<http://storytimeunderground.org/>) group is kicking off regional chapters, including one for Virginia. We are planning quarterly meetups and weekly online discussions. Our regional group is open to everyone, from any library and with any job title.

Those who are interested can join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/878094685640400/>) or email me (rplacchetti@crll.org) for more information. Thank you so very much!

Rachel Placchetti
Youth Services Librarian
Salem Church Branch
Central Rappahannock Regional Library




From PUBYAC

Playdate Programs

Hi All. I am hosting a Playdate at the end of January. Has anyone held one of these programs? I am looking for ideas and what worked/didn't work.

What would you do different. Really anything to help. Thank you all for being such a great group and so willing to share and help each other. Wishing you all the very best in 2016! *Posted January 7, 2016 by Rachelle McComb, Children's Services Assistant, Red Deer Public Library, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.*

Thank you everyone for your ideas. Some of you said you wanted them passed on, so I thought I would pass them on to all. *Posted January 13, 2016.*

 A few years back, I did a program over the winter called Playdate Picnic. Here's how I recall it went down: The program description said that, aside from storytime, folks were welcome to bring a picnic lunch. I made sure to state very clearly to please not bring any nuts or nut-containing foods. We obviously cannot control every food allergy out there, but it doesn't hurt to make the request! Before the program, I spread a few tablecloths on the floor. There were peg puzzles, magnetic letters, felt shapes, and kid-friendly musical instruments set aside on a table and covered with another table cloth (out of sight, out of mind). Folks came in and set up on a "picnic blanket". I did a short (10 minutes or so) storytime. Like 1 or 2 books, a feltboard, and a few songs. Then, with the help of the grownups, we set out the puzzles and stuff.

The library had a Bestrite feltboard easel (this guy: <http://bit.ly/1TPvYt9>): one side has a regular feltboard, the other is a magnetic whiteboard. Kids were welcome to play with the stuff, eat lunch, and the grownups could chat away. I didn't stay in the room, but the reference desk was directly outside the glass door, so I could keep an eye on things from there. We had a few sessions over the winter and it was very well received!

(Continued on page 5)

The Library of Virginia

Mission

As the Commonwealth's library and archives, the Library of Virginia is a trusted educational institution. We acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and advance the development of library and records management services statewide.

Vision

The Library of Virginia will inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding, and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

Finance

The Library's primary funding source is General Fund appropriations. The majority of the Library's General Fund expenses represent transfer payments to local government for state aid to public libraries. Additionally, the Library earns special nongeneral fund revenue from storage fees charged to agencies and courts for document and records storage and from local circuit court records' preservation fees.

The Library also receives federal grant funding through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of 1996. This grant promotes access to learning and information resources of libraries.

Goals

2014-2016

Collections:

Strengthen and Preserve the Library's collections and expand accessibility for the benefit of users.

Service:

Deliver courteous, accurate, and efficient information services to our customers.

Organizational Excellence:

Position the Library to effectively embrace new challenges and increasing responsibilities.

Educational Readiness and Achievement:

Engage and educate parents, teachers, and learners through programming designed to enhance early literacy readiness and to provide access to quality education resources for prekindergarten and K12 children.

This goal is critical in fulfilling the Library's mission to provide Virginians with access to the most comprehensive information resources and to elevate levels of educational preparedness and attainment of Virginia's citizens.

Associated State Goal

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

Education Attainment Objectives

- ◆ Increase the number of children who participate in the Winter Reading Program.
- ◆ Increase the number of children and teens who are served by public libraries through out-of-school programs and summer reading programs.
- ◆ Support the parent as a child's first teacher by implementing Early Literacy Activity Centers in public libraries and providing training on their use.

Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

Enid Costley

Children's and Youth Services Consultant

Library Development and Networking

Library of Virginia

800 East Broad Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-1905

Phone: 804.692.3765

Fax: 804.692.3771

E-mail: enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov

Extranet: www.vpl.virginia.gov



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.

This newsletter project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Halifax County South Boston Public Library System

STEM Projects

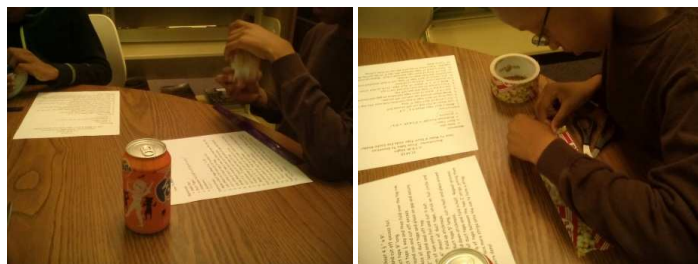
These two STEM projects were Awesome! The Tween's were so engaged into the activities. All pics were done with the iPad...again awesome.

Submitted by Suzanne Reeves, Children's Service Specialist

Brainstorms: From Idea to Invention (Soda Can Coolie) December 14, 2015

Mission Impossible? Can these three Tween's keep their soda can cool?

In this experiment, all you need are; Duct tape, scissors, ruler, aluminum foil, soda can and patience. S.T.E.M. to the rescue.

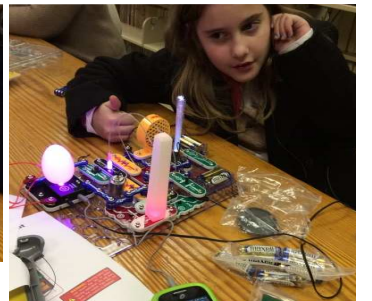
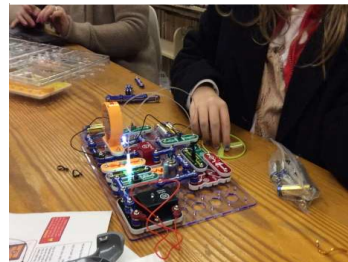
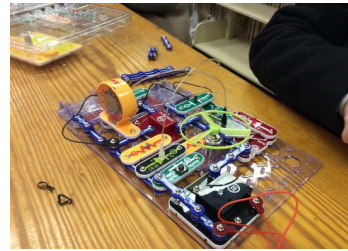
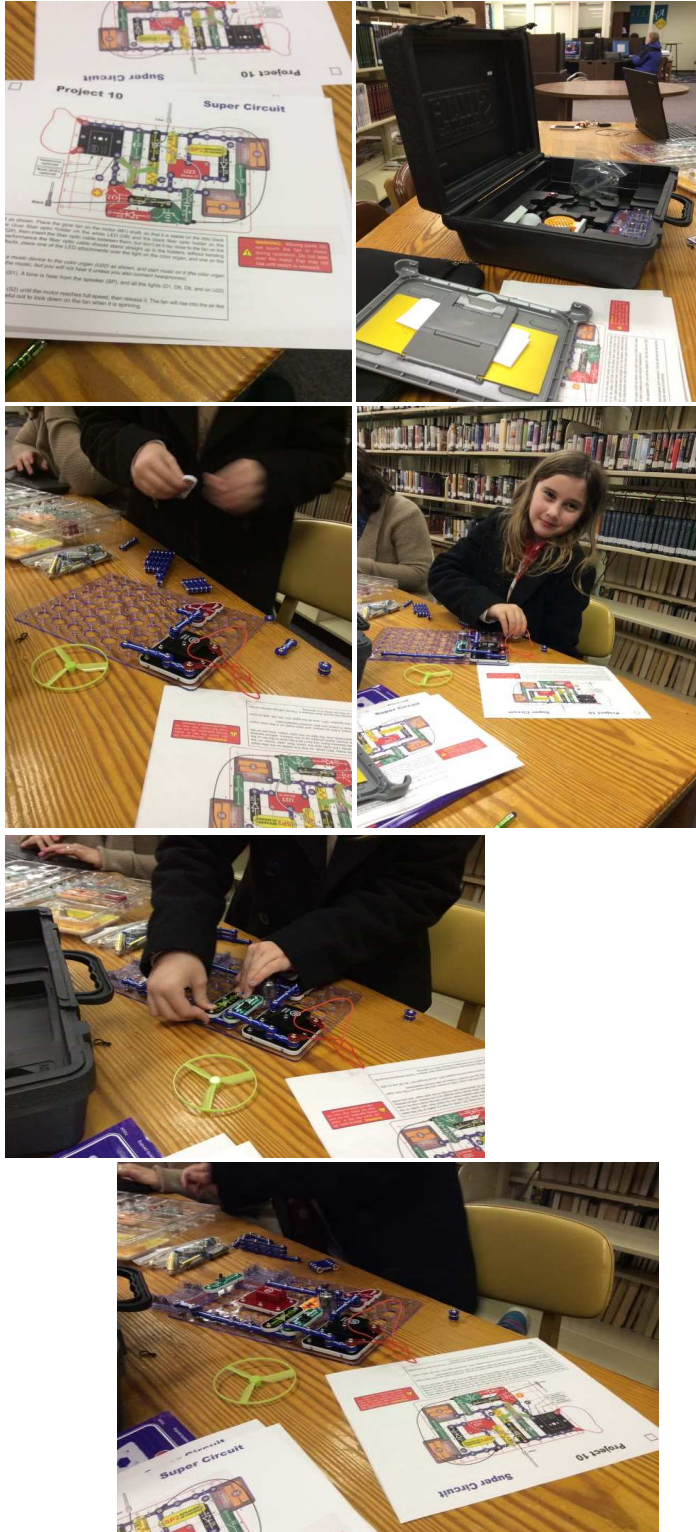


Pictures of the second STEM project are on page 4.



STEM Projects*Continued from page 3***Batteries Included (Project 10: Super Circuit)
January 11, 2016**

In this experiment, my tween was to follow the diagram making sure all the circuits were going the right way. In the end we had to do several systems check and finally succeeded.



Playdate Programs

Continued from page 1

Since it was too cold to be at the playground or to take a walk, patrons were happy to have a safe, warm, happy place to be with their kids and visit with pals.

🐦 One thing I would just say beware and put a tarp/tablecloth down underneath if you are going to put a kiddie pool out filled with newspaper, confetti, or packing peanuts to help you with cleanup after.

🐦 One cool thing if you have babies that I liked is take a yoga mat and put sticky contact paper over it and the kids will love putting their hands and feet on it. Another cool idea I saw was bubble wrap and have kids stomp to pop it.

🐦 I haven't hosted a playdate program but I'm planning something similar to a playdate program in March. I'm going to call it Toddler Obstacles or Active Play since the idea is play with purpose. Toddlers will be doing various activities to strengthen and develop their fundamental motor skills. Some of my activities will include numbered stepping stones, hopscotch, crawling through a tunnel, tossing bean bags, etc.

🐦 Concerns would be amount of space, crowd control, and making sure to have space for grown ups and babies who accompany toddler siblings. Also grown ups would be required to be in the room at all times with their child.

🐦 Our library does a weekly playgroup every Tuesday from 10:30-11:30. Here's our program description: "Come on over each Tuesday for an all-ages playgroup that encourages children to explore hands-on activities and develop social skills. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. This takes place in our quiet reading area."

🐦 It is a drop in program and generally, the kids are young (9 months and up) with the oldest being 3 years old or so.

We put out a basket of board books, a box of Brio trains and tracks, some chunky puzzles, bins of soft blocks, trucks and assorted toys. We also set up a "car rug" that has roads on it along with the small plastic cars.

We sometimes play some soft music.

🐦 Sometimes people will linger (weather permitting) but we don't chase them out. MOST of the time, the parents will clean up (and encourage their little ones to do so, too) but we have had one or two times where

that didn't happen. Actually, when we had our playgroup on December 29, around 60 people (kids and adults) attended and they didn't clean up. We were short-staffed so we were unable to get to them in time to remind them the cleanup rule.

🐦 But generally, we have anywhere between 4-20 kids and about the same or more adults. It is such a good opportunity for both the kids and their mothers/grandmothers/childcare people to interact with one another. So I see it as a real service with very little effort on our part. I think our program numbers have even gotten better for the younger ones since starting the playgroup.

🐦 On occasion, staff members will do a story time or other children's program at 10 and end just as playgroup is beginning. It works for us.

🐦 Here are a few more on this blog:
<http://readingwithred.blogspot.com/2015/10/play-baby-play-play-around-at-library.html?m=1> 📖

From ALSC Blog

Bookmark This Calendar! 2016 in Library Observances

It happens to the best of us: you're going about your business, running programs as usual, when all of a sudden you hear about a library holiday or observance that you didn't even have on your radar. How could you have missed National Something-Something Day?!

There are so many observance-worthy months and days each year, but it can be hard to keep track of them all, especially with enough lead time to plan something for your library. Never fear! We at the Public Awareness Committee want you to be aware of all the celebrations and commemorative dates coming in 2016. **So bookmark this calendar, check out some of the links for information and ideas, and get prepared for your most festive year yet.**

<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2015/12/bookmark-this-calendar-2016-in-library-observances/>

Posted December 13, 2015 📖





Dates to Remember

Virginia Conferences

March 16-20, 2016..... Virginia Festival of the Book 2016..... Charlottesville
 May 2, 2016..... VLA Professional Associates Annual Conference..... Williamsburg
 October 26-28, 2016..... VLA Annual Conference..... Hot Springs

National Conferences

April 5-9, 2016..... Public Library Association 2016 Conference..... Denver
 June 23-28, 2016..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... Orlando
 September 15-17, 2016..... ALSC National Institute 2016..... Charlotte
 October 27-29, 2016..... Association for Rural & Small Libraries..... Fargo
 November 4-6, 2016..... YALSA's 2016 YA Services Symposium..... Pittsburgh

Thanks *for the photos and information!*

- ◇ Rachel Placchetti, Central Rappahannock Regional Library
- ◇ Suzanne Reeves, Halifax County South Boston Public Library System
- ◇ And the usual resources - PUBYAC, iREAD, ALSC